

C2 Sub D1
C1 H
comprises paper output tray information.

8. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the feature comprises output printing device service information.

C3 Sub D1
10. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein one of the client computers further comprises a client print server link adapted to receive and display the feature, and the print job status information from the print server.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-20 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mori et al. U.S. Patent No. ("Mori").

Summary Of Applicants' Response

Applicants have canceled claims 9 and 11-20 without prejudice and have amended independent claims 1, 3-8 and 10 to overcome the Examiner's rejections and more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Reply to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mori. Mori issued on September 18, 2001, based on application Serial No. 08,848,449, filed 8 May 1997, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/292,110, filed 17 August 1994. Because this application was filed on 11 March 1999, more than two years prior to the issue date of Mori, applicants respectfully submit that a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper.

On 22 August 2002, the undersigned attorney for applicants spoke by telephone to Examiner Gabriel I. Garcia, who clarified that he intended to reject claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Mori. Accordingly, applicants reply to the

22 May 2002 Office action as though claims 1-20 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The claimed invention recites a printing system comprising a plurality of client computers, an administrative link, and a plurality of print servers and output printing devices coupled together via a network. Each client computer includes a print job, and each print server comprises a print queue, and is adapted to receive the print jobs from the client computers, provide the print jobs to the print queue, and provide status information about the print jobs and print queue. Each output printing device comprises a feature and is coupled to one of the print servers, and is adapted to receive the print jobs from the print server and print the print jobs. The administrative link is adapted to receive and display the feature, print job status and print queue status information from each of the output printing devices, and also is adapted to manage the print jobs on any of the output printing devices. Mori does not describe or suggest such printing systems.

Instead, Mori describes two embodiments of networked printing systems, neither of which include an administrative link in accordance with this invention. In the first embodiment, the networked printing system includes multiple client computers 52 coupled to network printing apparatus 20 via communication path 53. (Col. 6, lines 31-38; FIG. 1). In the second embodiment, the networked printing system includes multiple client terminals 152a-152c coupled to server SVR and printer PRT via LAN 130. (Col. 43, lines 22-26; FIG. 55). Mori does not describe or suggest that client terminals 152 include any function or feature for controlling print jobs.

In contrast, with respect to the first embodiment, client computer 52 creates print data, and creates, receives and displays data transmitted to and from network printing apparatus 20 regarding the status of the printing apparatus, print job status, paper supply and other information. (Col. 7, lines 5-14). In particular, client computer 52 includes a menu screen 41 that permits a user to provide a request for printing, control print jobs waiting to be printed at network printing apparatus 20, and to check the service state and operation state of the printing apparatus. (Col. 20, line 53 through Col. 22, line 32; FIGS. 23 and 24). Client computer 52 cannot, however, control print jobs created by another client computer. (Col. 22, lines 55-60). Thus, unlike the claimed invention, Mori does not describe or suggest a printing system that includes an administrative link that is adapted to receive and display features, print job status


information and print queue status information of each output printing device, and to manage the print jobs created by each of the client computers on the output printing devices.

Because Mori does not describe or suggest the claimed invention, applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn. Because amended claims 2-8 depend from amended claim 1, applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejections of those claims also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicants submit that this application, including amended claims 1-8 and 10, is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version of Amended Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Three Times Amended) A printing system[,] comprising:
 - a network;
 - a plurality of client computers coupled to the network, each client computer comprising a print job;
 - a print server coupled to the network, the print server comprising a print queue, the print server adapted to receive the print jobs via the network from the client computers and provide the print jobs to the print queue, and to provide status information about the print jobs and the print queue;
 - an output printing device [connected to the network capable of receiving print jobs from the network into a print queue and printing the print jobs] coupled to the print server, the output printing device [having a plurality of features, the output printing device having at least one of the plurality of features output to the network, and having print queue information sent to the network when a print queue change is made] comprising a feature, the output printing device adapted to receive the print jobs from the print server and print the print jobs;
 - [at least one client computer connected to the network, the at least one client computer having at least one of the print jobs;] and
 - an administrative link connected to the network, the administrative link [capable of receiving and displaying the at least one of the plurality of features from the output printing device, receiving the print queue information, displaying the print queue information and the status information regarding each of at least one of the print jobs sent to the output printing device from at least one of the at least one client computers, and managing at least one of the sent print jobs] adapted to receive and display the feature, the print job status information and the print queue status information, and adapted to manage the print jobs of each of the client computers on the output printing device.
3. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the output printing device is a copier [printer].

4. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s] comprises paper input tray information.

5. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s] comprises toner level information.

6. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s] comprises fuser level information.

7. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s] comprises paper output tray information.

8. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, wherein the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s] comprises output printing device service information.

10. (Twice Amended) The printing system of Claim 1, [further comprising:]
wherein one of the client computers further comprises a client print server link [on at least one of the at least one client computer for] adapted to receive and display[ing] the [at least one of the plurality of] feature[s from the output printing device through the network connection], and [for receiving and displaying] the print job status [of each of the at least one of the print jobs sent to the output printing device from the client computer] information from the print server.